

SN. 09/737,280

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. CANO:016

IN THE CLAIMS

Kindly replace claims 1, 4, 47, 48, 57, 75, 76, and 78 with the following corresponding replacement claims:

--1. (Amended) A sheet handling apparatus comprising:

a plurality of inserter trays for having insert sheets stacked thereon, said insert sheets being inserted between the recording sheets transported from an image forming apparatus having an image forming section;

A1 a sheet feeding controller that controls feeding of the insert sheets stacked on the plurality of inserter trays;

a plurality of feeders that feed the insert sheets stacked on respective inserter trays; and

a sheet feeding mode setting device that sets one of a plurality of sheet feeding modes defining respectively a plurality of stacking manners,

wherein said sheet feeding modes include at least a first sheet feeding mode in which said sheet feeding controller controls said feeders to sequentially feed the insert sheets from a different one of the inserter trays every time an insert sheet is fed, and a second feeding mode in which said sheet feeding controller controls said feeders to sequentially feed the insert sheets from only one of the inserter trays unless the one inserter tray is empty.--

A2 --4. (Amended) A sheet handling apparatus according to claim 3, wherein in said first sheet feeding mode, said sheet feeding controller sequentially feeds the insert sheets sheet by sheet from one of said plurality of inserter trays, and then changes to another of said inserter trays.--

A3 --47. (Amended) A machine readable storage medium storing a program for controlling a sheet handling apparatus comprising a plurality of inserter trays for stacking insert sheets thereon, said insert sheets being inserted between said recording sheets transported from a sheet handling apparatus having a sheet handling section, the program including codes for:
controlling feeding of said insert sheets stacked on the respective inserter trays; and

SN. 09/737,280

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. CANO:016

setting one of a plurality of sheet feeding modes defining respectively a plurality of stacking manners,

wherein said feeding modes include at least a first sheet feeding mode in which the inserts sheets are sequentially fed from a different inserter tray every time an insert sheet is fed, and a second feeding mode in which the insert sheets are sequentially fed from only one of the inserter trays unless the one inserter tray is empty.

48. (Amended) A sheet handling apparatus comprising:

at least one inserter tray for having insert sheets stacked thereon, said insert sheets being inserted between the recording sheets transported from a sheet handling apparatus having a sheet handling section;

a sheet feeder that feeds the insert sheets stacked on said inserter tray;

a stacking manner input terminal that selects a desired stacking manner from at least two kinds of stacking manners, for stacking the insert sheets on said inserter tray; and

a controller operable when a predetermined stacking manner is selected by said stacking manner input terminal, for controlling said sheet feeder to feed the insert sheets from said inserter tray without interrupting a job being executed when insert sheets are re-stacked on said inserter tray after exhaustion of all the insert sheets stacked on said inserter tray.--

--57. (Amended) A sheet handling apparatus comprising:

at least one inserter tray for stacking thereon insert sheets to be inserted between recording sheets having images formed thereon in a main body of an image forming apparatus; and

a sheet feeder for feeding the insert sheets stacked on the inserter tray;

wherein while a predetermined stacking manner is selected from at least two kinds of stacking manners for stacking insert sheets on said inserter tray, said sheet feeder is controlled to feed insert sheets from said inserter tray without stopping a job being executed if the insert sheets stacked on said inserter tray are exhausted and thereafter insert sheets are re-stacked on said

SN. 09/737,280

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. CANO:016

94
inserter tray.--

65
--75. (Amended) A machine readable storage medium storing a program for controlling insert of insert sheets in a sheet handling apparatus comprising at least one inserter tray for having the insert sheets stacked thereon, said insert sheets being inserted between the recording sheets transported from an image forming section, and a sheet feeder that feeds the insert sheets stacked on said inserter tray, the program including codes for:

selecting a desired stacking manner from at least two kinds of stacking manners, for stacking the insert sheets on said inserter tray, and

controlling said sheet feeder to feed the insert sheets from said inserter tray without interrupting a job being executed when insert sheets are re-stacked on said inserter tray after exhaustion of all the insert sheets stacked on said inserter tray while a predetermined stacking manner is selected by said stacking manner selecting step.

76. (Amended) A sheet handling apparatus comprising:

a plurality of inserter trays that hold insert sheets which are to be inserted between sheets transported from an image forming apparatus;

a plurality of feeders that feed the insert sheets stacked on said inserter trays respectively;

an instruction inputting terminal that inputs an instruction selecting one of a plurality of sheet feeding modes including a first mode for plural types of insert sheets stacked on said inserter trays respectively and a second mode for plural types of insert sheets stacked on at least one of said inserter trays; and

a sheet feeding controller that controls said feeders to sequentially feed the insert sheets from a different one of the inserter tray every time an insert sheet is fed, and controls said feeders to sequentially feed the insert sheets from only one of the inserter trays unless the one inserter tray is empty.--

96
--78. (Amended) A machine readable storage medium storing a program for controlling a

SN. 09/737,280

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. CANO:016

sheet handling apparatus including a plurality of inserter trays that hold insert sheets which are to be inserted between sheets transported from an image forming apparatus, and a plurality of feeders that feed the insert sheets stacked on said inserter trays respectively, the program including codes for:

inputting an instruction selecting one of a plurality of sheet feeding modes including a first mode for plural types of insert sheets stacked on said inserter trays respectively and a second mode for plural types of insert sheets stacked on at least one of said inserter trays; and

controlling said feeders to sequentially feed the insert sheets from a different one of the inserter tray every time an insert sheet is fed, and to sequentially feed the insert sheets from only one of the inserter trays unless the one inserter tray is empty.--
